

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CURACA 00177 110427Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05

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FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3782

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PEPR, MPOL, ECON, XL, CU, NA

SUBJECT: CUBAN OUTREACH IN THE CARIBBEAN -- NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

REF: (A) STATE 056727 (NOTAL), (B) CURACAO A-26 OF JULY 12, 1977

1. IN RECENT PAST CUBAN INTEREST IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES MANIFESTED ITSELF MOST DRAMATICALLY IN EARLY 1977 IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. AT THAT TIME CUBAN BAND VISITED CURACAO TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGN OF FRENTE OBRERO. ITS LEADERS MADE A BIG THING OF OCCASION, WITH EXCHANGES OF GIFTS AND INVITATIONS. UPSHOT WAS SO TO FRIGHTEN CURACAOAN VOTERS AS TO CAUSE FRENTE NOT ONLY TO FAIL TO ACHIEVE ITS WIDELY-ANTICIPATED ELECTORAL VICTORY, BUT EVEN TO SUSTAIN A SIGNIFICANT LOSS (CURACAO A-26). THEREAFTER FRENTE LEADERSHIP NATURALLY PLAYED DOWN THE CUBAN CONNECTION.

2. LAST OCTOBER FRENTE LEADER WILSON "PAPA" GODETT EXPLICITLY DENIED ANY LEANINGS TOWARD MARXISM OR CASTRO-ISM, PROFESSING AS HE PUT IT, TO BE A "NATIONALIST." MEANWHILE, NO. 2 MAN IN FRENTE, DON MARTINA, CONTINUES TO PUSH HIS MORE RADICAL VIEWS, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNSEAT GODETT.

3. RECENT CUBAN ACTIVITY HERE IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES HAS BEEN MODEST IN SCOPE, SOMEWHAT CLUMSY, AND IN NAG VIEW, NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CURACA 00177 110427Z

PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE OR WORRISOME. PREPONDERANCE OF CUBAN EFFORT HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT CREATING COMMERCIAL LINKS FOR FUTURE EXPLOITATION, RATHER THAN AT POLITICAL TARGETS FOR PRESENT PURPOSES. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNIST LITERATURE AMONG DOCK WORKERS BY CREWMEN OF CUBAN SHIPS. BUT NAG ASSESSMENT OF THIS ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE THAT IT AIMS AT THE WRONG GROUP (COMPLACENT WORKERS RATHER THAN ANXIOUS

UNEMPLOYED) AND USED RELATIVELY INEFFECTIVE VEHICLE (BOOKS
RATHER THAN SIMPLER AND MORE DRAMATIC AND PORTABLE LEAFLETS).
PENBERTHY

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